

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

January 20th.—Numbers present, 7: Miss Allen, Miss Fagan, Miss Flower, Miss Mackenzie, Miss Stubbs, Miss Beveridge, Miss Conder. Association business was first discussed, and it was decided to report these meetings, that they might be more widely known and better attended. The new Secretary was introduced, and the change of Editorship announced. Mrs. Boole came about 4 o'clock and talked to us—not in any sense a lecture—on “Galileo and the religion of Bacchus,” which led to an interesting discussion in which all joined. After tea Dr. Helen Webb read her paper on “Neurotic Children,” which some of us had heard before, but were delighted to hear again. In the discussion afterwards it was said that the best teaching does *not* leave the teacher exhausted and the child able to repeat all he has heard. It is better to get from the children in recapitulation some thing that has not gone before—and that a wise teacher holds herself back, and tries to give ideas, not her interpretation of them.

E. C. A.

February 17th.—On this date an Ex-Students' meeting was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Franklin, at 50, Porchester Terrace, when Mrs. Boole gave a charming lecture on “How to Think.” At about 3-30 the Students arrived and met in the library. Of course, both Miss Allen and Miss Flower were present and received the Students very kindly, but took care to remind each that we had met “for business,” which sounded not a little alarming. Among others who were present were Miss Lanphier, Miss K. Conder, Miss Grace Mackenzie, and Miss Gore, who had come up only for the day; Miss Ross, who had come up expressly from Wimbledon; Miss Spearman, and Miss Nesbitt, who were both living in town; Miss Nora Magill, Miss Faunce, and several others. As the lecture was to take place immediately we did not attempt to enter into the “business” about which Miss Allen was so stern, but sorted into groups of twos and threes and talked of old times at Ambleside. At about 4-15 we assembled in the drawing-room. Mrs. Boole's lecture was the result of a meeting held to debate the objections set

forward by the “intelligent, well-meaning, and honest” heads of schools and so forth to the Higher Logic. These objections, Mrs. Boole urged, are the same as those set forth by the “Paterfamilias” to the weekly cleaning of his study. There *are* occasions when he grants the necessity of the broom and duster; he recognises that visible extraneous dirt must be removed. But he argues, and what large dimensions can the little word assume, but, if the women are content with the things that they have, and wish them to remain in the same positions, what madness possesses them to pile everything upside down into places where they are of no use, when, after all, they are going to put everything back exactly where it was? The answer to his objection, of course, is that besides the visible extraneous dirt, there is a constant production of impalpable dirt and invisible microbes, and that sanitation requires the regular shaking of the same out of all corners and crevices, and that this cannot be done except by shifting the position of everything in the room *not* to a better position but to a different one. Now, Mrs. Boole argues, the human mind with its contents, the storehouse as it were, of knowledge exactly resembles a furnished room. It may contain such visible extraneous dirt in the shape of a grievous error of principle or judgment gleaned from a false idea, that its “furniture” needs a total upsetting and new arrangement, but this is only occasionally so. What is always needed is that each person should be able to spring-clean his own mind and life with the least risk of damaging anything valuable which they may contain. We must be careful, however, to guard against misguided zeal. The “paradoxe” Mrs. Boole compared to the child who for mere love of mischief puts the chair upside, the fireirons on the sofa, etc., and leaves them there in monkey-like imitation of what he has seen the housemaid do. Again, the *revolutionary* is he who, getting stifled and oppressed by the general mustiness, thinks he feels uncomfortable because *things are badly arranged* and attempts a re-arrangement without having ascertained if such be really necessary or how to set about it. What we must do, is to keep our minds in free working order by examining them. We must discover the “impalpable dust”—the extent, balance, and strength of our own minds, and what they contain. Keep an open and unprejudiced mind towards new views and theories. Having thanked Mrs. Boole for her

lecture, a few questions consequent upon it were discussed and explained, and after tea we withdrew to the library to enter upon the business part of the meeting. Several questions were discussed in connection with this Magazine and with the Old Students' Association, and a few valuable suggestions made by Misses Nesbitt, Allen, Flower, and Lanphier were accepted by those present. We all felt grateful to Miss Allen and Miss Flower for directing the meeting, and the Students separated, feeling, if I may judge personally, very delighted with their afternoon.

L. F.

March 17th.—Number present, 6: Miss Allen, Miss Magill, Miss Mackenzie, Miss Flower, Miss Ross, Miss Stubbs. This was a small meeting, but exceedingly enjoyable. Upstairs we had a most animated discussion on "Obstinacy." We agreed that when the thing persisted in was orthodox, that persistence was called strength of mind; when unorthodox, obstinacy. That it was fatal to struggle; change of thought was a good weapon, but wanted carefully handling. After tea, Mrs. Franklin read us a chapter on "Character," out of *The Map of Life*, by Lecky—a book which may be cordially recommended to any who want to read something thorough and yet not dry. The meeting broke up at 6-30.

E. C. A.

April 21st.—Number present, 4: Miss Allen, Miss Beddow, Miss Devonshire, Miss Smith. This was a very small meeting owing to the Easter holidays having taken many people out of town. Mrs. Clement Parsons read a charming paper on the "Art of Letter-Writing," which was thoroughly enjoyed. The graceful voice and manner of the reader added much to the pleasure of her matter. Tea was in the garden, and then we enjoyed a long chat over Ambleside gossip. Miss Devonshire and Miss Smith are still up, in their Junior and Senior years respectively, and so could give us very up-to-date news. It is hoped we shall see some more Present Students' in the winter, if they come up for interviews, etc.

E. C. A.

The meetings this term will be on June 23rd and July 21st, by kind permission of Mrs. Franklin, at 50, Porchester Terrace. All Students who may be within distance are cordially invited to come.